

# THE PULSE

of The New York Hospital Employees — 68th to 71st Streets, York Avenue to East River

MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 30, 1944

*John R. Hersey, who wrote "Wozenski's Hill", is a member of the Society of the New York Hospital and an Associate Editor of LIFE. Out of his experiences, as a LIFE correspondent in both the Pacific and Mediterranean theatres, came three distinguished books—"A Bell for Adano," "Into the Valley," and "Men on Bataan," which have resulted in the author becoming one of the most prominent and widely read writers of today.*

*"Wozenski's Hill" recounts an incident in the Sicilian campaign. But it does more than that. It relates that incident—and countless other engagements on the world's battlefronts—to the work going on at The New York Hospital.*

*"What is happening now at The New York Hospital will do much to reclaim thousands who are hurt on hundreds of Wozenski's hills," is the way Mr. Hersey puts it.*

*We feel that you—as one of those who work for this Hospital and take a pride in its achievements, would want to read this evaluation of what your Hospital is doing and of its tremendous importance to our men wherever they are fighting and suffering.*

## WOZENSKI'S HILL

*"... what is happening now at The New York Hospital will do much to reclaim thousands who are hurt on hundreds of Wozenski's hills."*

by

JOHN R. HERSEY

A shell hit Wozenski's hill. It was a big shell, and it put all the men down in their holes. Gradually heads began popping up. Captain Wozenski, who had not taken cover, said to me, who had: 'This hill's a little too crowded for my liking.'

A telephone bell rang. It was an absurd sound out there, and some of the men jumped when they heard it. An enlisted man answered: "Hello . . . wait a minute," and he shouted: "Hey, where's that wireman, anyone seen that wireman?"

Wozenski said: "Every time a shell lands on this hill, everybody calls up from the other hills to see if their buddies are okay."

A shell hit the top of the hill. I happened to be looking up there at the moment, and I saw a dark lump fly up with the smoke and blasted dust. It went higher and fell in a gentle arc. It was a kitbag. A man screamed: "Help! help help help!"

Wozenski said: "Damn," and walked wearily up the hill.

A mumbled message was passed down the hill: "Send up some litter bearers . . . they say they need some litter bearers. . . ."

Captain Wozenski came down the slope.

Here and there the men gathered to talk over who had been killed and who had been wounded at the top of the hill. Captain Wozenski shouted in a clear, deep voice: "All right. Let's not have these great g—— d—— gatherings. Spread out."

(Continued on page 3)

## Charter Day Exercises

Completion by The New York Hospital of 173 years of service to the sick of the city of New York was celebrated here on Tuesday, May 16th.

Mr. Langdon P. Marvin, president of the Society, presided. Mr. Marvin addressed the guests briefly before introducing the two guest speakers, Colonel Lewis B. Cuyler of the Army Air Force Redistribution Center at Atlantic City and Dr. Thomas A. C. Rennie, Director of the Hospital's Payne Whitney Rehabilitation Clinic. Mr. Marvin explained that Charter Day is held annually to commemorate the granting by King George III in 1771 of the original charter and the founding of the Hospital, the oldest in New York.

Colonel Cuyler described the program conducted by the Army Air Force in re-evaluating and assigning to further active service airmen returned from combat duty. Colonel Cuyler emphasized the point that these men, due to the terrific strain under which they conduct their tour of duty abroad, must be handled individually and described in detail the care and thought given to each one in an effort to assign him to duty where he will give the greatest usefulness.

Dr. Rennie described The New York Hospital's pioneering work in dealing with various types of "psychoneurotic casualties" among men already discharged from the Armed Forces. The outstanding success of this work has resulted in similar clinics being started in six other hospitals in the City and in many other cities of the country.

**IMPORTANT  
ANNOUNCEMENT  
ON  
PAGE SIX**

# THE PULSE

*of the employees of*

THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL

68th to 71st Sts., York Ave. to East River

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## Registered Men Nurses

Men have been taking care of the sick and injured since the earliest recordings of history. All of the medical personnel of the early great wars were in the hands of men, and religious organizations all had their nursing groups. Even in our own Civil War, much of the early medical care was given by men nurses, inefficient though it was. It has only been in rather recent years however, that any attempt has been made to organize training schools for men which were of a type which compared favorably with the standards set by the many training schools for women. Recognition was slow in coming, partly because of prejudice and partly because much of the material turned out by the schools was not acceptable to the medical profession as a whole. A few people, however, recognized the vital need for properly qualified men nurses in various forms of medicine where women were inadequate to meet the situation. Some of the better schools for men survived in spite of the lack of recognition, and their graduates soon became looked upon as of value in hospitals. Standards were raised and courses of instruction were arranged to follow state board regulations so that graduate men nurses were allowed to take the regular examinations and received diplomas as registered nurses. Today all training schools for men follow acceptable standards of instruction and the

graduates are eligible for membership in state nursing associations and the American Nurses Association. State groups have organized and in some instances have been given recognition as an integral part in State Nursing Associations.

Since the war began, there has been much discussion about the status of registered men nurses in the armed services. No formal recognition has yet been accorded to them by any service, although by their training most of the men have made rapid advancement in the medical corps. The war has also created a great demand for the services of registered men nurses in construction industries and in the medical departments of manufacturing companies.

In General Hospitals, men are being used in increasing numbers in services like urology and venereal clinics. Prisons and other penal institutions for males are almost entirely staffed by men. However, perhaps the greatest field for registered men nurses is psychiatry. This branch of medical science has grown so fast in recent years that its true progress can only be appreciated by a few. Treatment in psychiatry has been raised from mere supportive and protective care to highly specialized treatments like narcosis, insulin therapy and lately electro-shock. It has been known that male patients in the acute stages of some mental disorders received far less constructive and intelligent care than women. The margin of difference being that women's wards were staffed by nurses who had training in psychiatry and understood the patient so that they had an idea of what the proper care should be. On male floors, all of the treatment was done by poorly trained, attendants. Sometimes these attendants were under the direction of a registered nurse, often not. In many large psychiatric hospitals need for registered men nurses was seen long ago. In some instances training schools were started and some of them have continued, which supplied the hospitals with picked students who, upon graduation, would be valuable additions to the medical staff and who could interpret and carry out instructions in an intelligent and efficient manner. The increase in number of adequately trained personnel has had considerable bearing on the number of cures effected by these hospitals, and now that the therapies are better defined and more intensive, much more can be expected.

## PROFILE



*The Pulse* takes pleasure in presenting Mr. Nelson R. Thornton, Assistant Comptroller of The New York Hospital, with a brief profile to serve as a blanket introduction to all employees of the hospital.

Interviewing Mr. Thornton was easy and pleasant, for he readily (though modestly) answered all our questions about his personal and professional life. We found that his first appearance was in Columbus, Ohio, in 1897; he received his education there also, taking an arts course at Ohio State University.

In the spring of 1918, Mr. Thornton left the university to join the United States Marine Corps, in which he served for over a year. (Wars were shorter in those days.) For some really interesting stories, ask this former Marine about some of his experiences in the First World War; at least one of them was unique.

After the war Mr. Thornton returned to Ohio to work for the Ohio Bell Telephone Company, as Supervisor of the Revenue Accounting Department. It was about this time that he married Miss Louise Witting of Columbus.

In 1924 Mr. Thornton entered the hotel business in the accounting end, soon joining Horwath and Horwath, hotel accounting specialists. In this capacity he was assigned, between 1927 and 1944, as Resident Auditor in ten different hotels in various large cities, finishing in New York at such hotels as the Belmont Plaza and the St. Regis. He is a member of the Hotel Accountants Association of New York City.

A veteran commuter who spends three hours a day in transit, Mr. Thornton owns a home in Malvern Park, Long Island. One of his treasures out there is his ten-year-old daughter, Beverly Lou, who is musically talented and expert as a young horsewoman.



## WOZENSKI'S HILL

(Continued from page 3)

The wounded men and their helpers began trickling down from the crest. A man with most of his shoulder shot away was guiding a blinded man. One limped along alone. The litter team carried a sergeant whose leg was bad and whose face was cut. Captain Wozenski had to detail some whole men to help. I took the arm of the blinded man.

The man with the shot-out shoulder said: "Let's go back there and get those b——s." The blind man was apologetic. He hoped he was causing me no trouble. He was sorry to have to be guided when he could walk and all.

The litter bearers stopped to rest. When they put the sergeant down he said: "Say, Doc, would you mind straightening my leg out?" What was left of his leg could be no straighter, for it was splinted between two rifles.

The going was very rough. The blind man lifted his feet high and put them down wherever they fell. He had none of the cautious grace of men long blind, but struck out with his legs as if angry at the path. A mule skinner came up the path riding a mule and singing a song about Georgia. One of the litter bearers said: "Here you, what you doing on that mule? Get off and let one of these fellows ride who need it." So the skinner got off and we lifted the blind soldier onto the mule's bare back. After that my job was to balance the blind man up there.

A German prisoner who had walked across the lines was sent to us. The wounded sergeant said to a man who could speak German: "Say will you ask the German for a souvenir. Tell him I promised an old lady." The German did not understand, but finally he gave the sergeant a five-mark piece.

The climb grew very steep and we were all quiet. Wounds began to hurt and shock began to set in seriously. The sergeant moaned: "Doc, can't you keep my leg straight?"

No one spoke for a long time, and then the blinded soldier said to me, quite softly: "Eyes are very delicate things."

Eyes are very delicate things. I thought about that sentence many times in the next few days. It said so much about pain and the future.

When I got back to the States, that sentence was still in my mind. Eyes are very delicate things. Hands are delicate, too, and kneecaps, and anything that gets hurt. And so when I got back I was a little more curious than I had ever been before about the things which are being done for the hurt of this war.

As a member of the Society of the New York Hospital, it was natural that I should take my curiosity to that hospital. The diversity and scope of the work being done there was such a revelation to me that I thought I'd like to set some of it down here against the background of the incident on Wozenski's hill. War is hurtful, to say the least. What happened on Wozenski's hill took or changed forever the lives of a dozen men. But what is happening now at The New York Hospital will do much to reclaim thousands who are hurt on hundreds of Wozenski's hill. It goes without saying that the reclamation of those thousands will have much to do with the kind of world we have here after the war.

Eyes are very delicate things. Well, The New York Hospital has an eye bank. Doctors can replace fogged corneas with clear ones from corpses, and The New York Hospital now keeps a bank of good corneas to help supply the very great demand. It is just like a blood bank, except that any healthy eye will do for transplanting—there is no counterpart of blood type; and doctors do not like to keep corneas for grafting for longer than 72 hours. But the demand is great enough so that the Hospital's bank has a steady turnover.

Chest injuries, both internal and external, are among the most dangerous of war injuries. The Hospital is carrying on research in the use of penicillin in chest injuries which may revolutionize treatment in the field.

And if these experiments do bring about a new departure for field treatment, New York Hospital doctors and nurses will use it. 284 doctors and 179 nurses have gone into the Armed Forces and the Hospital's Unit, the Ninth General, is now on active service in the New Guinea area.

(Continued on page 4)

## Hospi - Tales

Dr. Louis N. Waters, Intern in Obstetrics, just returned from a vacation in Washington, D. C. and Charlottesville, Virginia. He had a "marvelous time."

\* \* \*

Dr. Wilbur Dixon, from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, plans to be married on June 3rd. The bride-to-be is Miss Barbara Pipping. The ceremony will take place in Rhode Island and Dr. Robert E. Bennett will be best man.

\* \* \*

Dr. Ethel S. Dana, on the House Staff of the Woman's Clinic, is spending two weeks vacation in Nova Scotia.

\* \* \*

Dr. Charles M. McLane on the Attending Staff of the Woman's Clinic, recently returned from Fargo, North Dakota, where he presented a paper on sterility.

\* \* \*

On Wednesday morning, May 10th, Dr. William B. Stromme, newly appointed member of the Full Time Staff of the Woman's Clinic, was guest speaker on the Baby Institute's radio program. Even though it was his debut as a radio speaker, his voice came over WJZ as though he were a veteran.

\* \* \*

Dr. Bernard Swan, Intern in Obstetrics, was married on Saturday May 20th, to Miss Jane Jewel. Dr. Robert E. Ahearn was best man and Dr. Harry T. Powers was an usher at the wedding.

\* \* \*

To Lietut. A. A. Gravesen U.S.N.R. at U. S. Naval Hospital, Phila. we send congratulations for his splendid job in handling their most interesting April 13th issue of "Sky Lines." Good luck Alec and we shall look with interest for subsequent editions.

\* \* \*

Mr. James F. Best has been appointed a member of the American Hospital Association Committee on the Simplification and Standardization of Hospital Furnishings, Supplies and Equipment.

\* \* \*

Miss Phyllis Gaito was married last November to Mr. Alfred Capasso. Her husband is serving with the Armed Forces.

(Continued on page 5)

Back in New York the Hospital's Department of Medicine is conducting patient research in what causes malarial relapses. With the help of ducks and canaries, who suffer the chills and fevers of malaria in order that in the future men may not, the laboratories of The New York Hospital are finding out just what happens in a malarial relapse.

The number of kinds of research being carried on is extraordinary. There is research in the treatment of burns with sulfafilms; in the reconstruction of torn arteries with vitallium tubes; in nerve grafting; in reasons for and effects of air crash injuries; in psychological tests for screening out poor candidates for Army life; and in many other similar things, some of them highly secret, all of them hopeful for the future.

The readjustment of men to civilian life, even of healthy men, is going to be one of the greatest problems of the country in the months and years to come. The first program for the rehabilitation of these men to be started by a voluntary hospital in the metropolitan area was the one at the Payne Whitney Psychiatric Clinic of The New York Hospital. At the time of writing 225 men have registered there for treatment.

This extraordinary range of war work has been set in the context of the regular peacetime services of the hospital. While all these things have been done, the Hospital has treated 66,982 civilian patients in 1943, 89% of whom were unable to pay the full cost of their care. No services have been cut down in spite of a severely depleted staff. And research has been done on civilian ills and needs—like the endocrine research for women and the progress in preventive medicine as carried on in the well-baby clinic. Since the war aim of most men is to get the thing over and get home, and since most want home much as it was when they went away, these services are, in a real sense, also dedicated to men overseas.

When I had found out some of these things about the work of The New York Hospital, I wished that I had known them when I walked off Wozenski's hill with the sergeant with the crushed leg and with the blinded man who said that eyes are very delicate things.

## Letters From Men In Service

Lt. (j.g.) (Bruce R. Valentine, former intern in Obstetrics, writes from North Africa: "Since arriving here I have been in Bizerte, Tunis (with its Casbah), Palermo in Sicily, and some other ports. I like North Africa; the country is pretty fertile, and well cared for, but the natives are almost invariably dirty, diseased and underfed. The towns are small with narrow streets and many above dwellings which are well cared for. I was very surprised at the snow-covered mountains along the coast, especially so since the growing season is well along here. The orchards are all in bloom and the ploughing was all done months ago. I still want to come back to the U. S. A. though."

\* \* \*

Lt. Com. William G. Langston, formerly on the House Staff of the Woman's Clinic, writes: "Some of this may be old news to you. Yood, I hear, has been 'down under' and married an Australian girl. Steve Parlee's father writes me that he has been receiving letters from Steve via ex-

ceedingly circuitous routes for over two years from India, North Africa and England. John Redmon, of the Army, is in Temple, Texas, with his family, after duty in the Pacific. Dill is as fat and jolly as ever. I have almost encountered Ralph Benson twice and hope to see him soon."

"I hope that my duties will give me the opportunity to see you and other members of the staff of the Lying-In before the end of the war."

Note: Those mentioned are all former members of the House Staff of the Woman's Clinic. This letter was received by Dr. R. Gordon Douglas.

\* \* \*

"England is a nice place with people driving on the wrong side of the road, stacking piles and piles of hay in the fields, English cigarettes at 50 cents for twenty, warm beer, one quart of scotch to last one pub all evening. The pubs close at 10:30 p. m. on week days, 10.00 p. m. on Sundays. Had a very nice trip over and I did not get the least bit sea sick. The waves were plenty high at times. Sure is a big sight, miles and miles of water.

We have 35 new records of old American recordings plus a beautiful fire place to watch while listening."

Regards to all, As ever,

CY JOHNSON.

## Message from the War Department

To: *The Pulse*,

525 E. 68th St., New York, N. Y.

U. S. ARMY FORCES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC — John J. Moore, formerly employed by the Cornell Medical Center, 525 E. 68th Street, New York, New York has been awarded the Good Conduct Medal for exemplary behavior, efficiency and fidelity. Technician Fourth Grade Moore is serving with a Postal Unit in the South Pacific.

## Nurses Aide

Best wishes to the Misses Betty Barr, Peggy Butler, Olive M. Dobson, Helmut Kobrak, Lillian Mole, Edna Petzold, Eileen Tanyan, Cathleen Tooley, and Mary Louise Travers, who are members of The New York Hospital personnel, and hope to receive their Nurses Aide Caps on June 6th.

## Fifth War Loan

The Government's Fifth War Loan to raise sixteen billion dollars will start June twelfth.

With Cornell Medical College and the cooperation of The National City Bank, we plan to set up a booth in the Main Hospital where war bonds may be purchased.

Let's all do our share in helping to fill the three and a half million dollar quota of the Manhattan hospitals.

Remember—buying Bonds is an investment for future security!

## Tennis Season Begins

The tennis season shifted into high gear approximately two weeks ago when genial Gene, the groundskeeper put the finishing touches on the hospital courts. Since then, seldom can an empty court be found. Probably one of the reasons for the large turnout is the decision by the hospital authorities to extend reservation privileges to the medical students. With the tennis committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Lawrence, planning a tournament to be held later in the summer, and the annual Nu Sigma Nu tournament in August, all indications point to a most successful season.



## THROUGH THE PEEP HOLE

As the patients enter the door of O.P.D. on 70th Street they are officially greeted by dignified Patrick J. Gaffney, believe it or not, one of Mr. Casey's Protective Department members in a white jacket! Mr. Gaffney ushers the newcomers to one of five registrars supervised by Miss Mooney under the leadership of Dr. Howell. The clinic fee is paid to Miss Welsch or Miss Hegel (Mr. Keig's Department); then to one of the many clinics for treatment. Little does the patient realize that he has passed through three departments before being admitted to a clinic for care.

\* \* \*

What is it that lures so many people to the Gift Shop daily? Can it be the attractive personnel or the many unique and well chosen articles on display. The hospital picture by Rolf Key-Oberg still maintains first place among the many views taken of the hospital. Mr. Key-Oberg's recent addition to the Gift Shop—a series of hand-made tiles and coasters are certainly worth examining. Ask Miss McSherry to show you the collection made by this talented potter from Physio.

\* \* \*

We have found the reason for the happiness of Miss Gertrude Bald of the Pharmacy. The nuptials? September we hear.

\* \* \*

This concerns Mike Cirone. He has returned to the fold. It IS true that he became so lonesome for his many friends in this hospital that he had to return. And, as in days past, he totes his little polishing stand calling upon old and new patrons in order to gently caress their footwear. Yep, 'tis good to see shoe-shine Mike on the job again, and to listen to his comments on current events and still better—his rendition of opera classics.

\* \* \*

Lt. George McBride has surprised us with a visit after a year and a half in the Aleutian Islands. He came in to tell us that there's nothing better he'd like than to be back working in the Account Department. Like all members in the armed forces he was non-communicative on his assignment in the Aleutians.

## HOSPI-TALES

(Continued from page 3)

*Miss Madeleine Dillman (Mrs. Ernest Lasch) has resigned to raise a family. Miss Helen Berghorn succeeds Miss Dillman as Secretary.*

\* \* \*

Miss Betty Pinter formerly of the Record Room is now serving in the Marines in Edenton, N. C.

\* \* \*

*Mrs. Sophie Renaldo and Mrs. Helen Busconi are both proud mothers of baby boys.*

\* \* \*

Miss Helen M. Oexle, Psychologist at the Payne Whitney Clinic, announced her engagement at Easter time.

\* \* \*

*The grounds and gardens are looking trim and beautiful these days, a delight and a credit to the hospital, thanks to the efforts of Henry, the gardener.*

\* \* \*

The engagement of Miss Florence Eaton, Head of the Payne Whitney Nursery School, to Dr. Hallowell Davis, Associate Professor of Physiology at Harvard, was announced recently. The marriage will take place in early summer at the bride's home in Maine. Miss Eaton has directed the activities of the Nursery School since its opening in 1932. She will be greatly missed.

\* \* \*

*Miss Margaret Fitchen, who has been associated with Miss Eaton in the Payne Whitney Nursery School from its beginning, will take charge in the fall, at the beginning of the new term. We are sure that she will ably continue the directing of the school.*

\* \* \*

The Personnel Department would like to take this opportunity of expressing its appreciation and thanks, for the fine cooperation given to it by all the employees of the hospital, in connection with the recent enrollment campaign for Associated Hospital Service and the inventory of the various Locker Rooms.

\* \* \*

We are happy to report that Miss Marie Crisafulli is doing an excellent piece of work by rapidly recovering from an illness in this hospital.

## We Announce With Pride That:

The First Air Medal awarded to Medical Corps Officer was to former Assistant Resident at the Lying-In Hospital. Lieutenant William W. Evans is the first Navy medical officer to receive the Air Medal, a decoration which is awarded to military personnel who distinguish themselves in aerial flight, either in combat or in non-combat action.

\* \* \*

*Captain Eugene L. Griffin, formerly resident of the Lying-In Hospital, was awarded the Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry in action in the North African battle area.*

\* \* \*

Formerly assistant resident at the Lying-In Hospital, Lt. Commander Donald R. Nelson distinguished himself when the Marines took the atoll of Tarawa by establishing a hospital on the beach in the middle of action where for ceaseless hours the wounded were cared for.

\* \* \*

*Eight members of the Record Department completed two courses, Job Instruction and Job Methods given by the government.*

## "HEIR CORPS"

Dr. and Mrs. William B. Stromme proudly announce the arrival of Karen Louise in the Lying-In Hospital on April 30th. Dr. Stromme is on the staff of the Lying-In.

\* \* \*

Dr. and Mrs. Earl Lasher are the proud parents of a son born on April 30th. Dr. Lasher was formerly on the Surgical Service.

\* \* \*

Dr. and Mrs. Allister McLellan have a new daughter, Bonnie Scott, born on April 29th. Dr. McLellan is with the Department of Urology.

\* \* \*

Mrs. Hilbert Heberling (formerly Miss Wahlgreen, New York Hospital nurse) gave birth to a daughter on May 4th.

## The Inquiring Reporter

### QUESTION:

What are your post-war plans?

### ANSWERS:



Patricia McSherry, Gift Shop: "I'm afraid I haven't been planning — but any suggestions will be accepted."



Agnes Connor, Woman's Clinic: "To spend my time with an ex-Navy man — my son."



Blanch Slown, Record Room: "To be truthful, I really have no definite post-war plans. Of course, I'd like to settle down and get married but find it best not to make any definite plans just yet. It seems plans made too far in advance rarely work out."



Helen Ganzekaufer, College Business Office: "I haven't any definite post-war plans, but hope I will be able to stay on at Cornell University Medical College business office and that the future will bring some unexpected pleasures."



Beatrice Fitch, Payne-Whitney: "What with espionage, sabotage, camouflage and whatsaflage — my post-war plans are a military secret."

Evelyn Brosch, Nutrition: "Post-war plans? Truthfully I have no definite ones. I've been giving a lot of thought to the persons coming home. I'd like to help them forget what they have been through. In other words, to help them readjust themselves as soon as possible, to their former way of living."



## ARE YOU WILLING TO HELP?

VOLUNTEER OR PAID

MALE OR FEMALE

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